SC's Direction to clean the Yamuna River

2589. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court of India has directed Government to take immediate and positive measures to clean the Yamuna River definitely by April 28, 2000;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) the extent of success achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed Govt. of NCT of Delhi to take suitable measures to ensure the quality of water in River Yamuna in Delhi conforms to the prescribed standards. The Hon'ble Court has directed the Govt. to take suitable measures to ensure significant improvement in the quality of water by next date of hearing i.e. 29-4-2000.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken by the Govt. of Delhi in this regard :

(i) Empowered Committees headed by Project Directors have been constituted in 5 major drainage basins contributing to the pollution level of river Yamuna namely Najafgarh drain, Shahdara drain, Civil Military drain, Dr. Sen Nursing Home Nallah and Bara Pulla Nallah.

(ii) Sector Officers have been appointed by these Empowered Committees to identify the sources of pollution and to intimate the same to the concerned civic agencies for taking prompt & appropriate remedial measures.

(iii) Based on the reports of the Sector Officers, action is being taken by DPCC with the help of area SDMs to seal all the polluting industrial units located in non-conforming areas, likewise MCD has been asked to issue notices to commercial establishments which are found to discharge polluted effluents into the drains.

(iv) Five vigilance squads have been set-up to ensure stringent action against the defaulting water polluting units.

(v) 2616 water polluting units have been identified and closure orders have been issued by Delhi Pollution Control Committee. The concerned departments have also been directed to ensure disconnection of electricity and water supply to these units.

(vi) 15 CETPs are being set up to treat industrial effluents arising out of 21 industrial areas in addition to the installation of individual ETPs for three CETPs (Mangolpuri, Mayapuri & Wazirpur Industrial area) work order has already been awarded by DSIDC.

(vii) To treat the domestic sewage, 16 new STPs are being constructed by Delhi Jal Board, out of which 8 have been already been completed.

(viii) DJB officers have been asked to take prompt measures to trap sewage flow in surface water drains and carry it to the nearest STP for proper treatment before discharging into the drains.

(ix) Wherever it is not possible to make such trappings efforts are being made to induce sedimentation of the suspended solids and provide aerobic treatment to the flow by providing series of baffle walls across tributary drains. Bar gratings are also being fixed across the drain to arres the floating garbage/debris. An aerobic treatment of sewage flow in the drains is also being tried in covered sections of the Raghubir Nagar drain as per the advice of CSIR scientists.

(x) Settlement tanks are being constructed at the outfall points of all dairy colony drains to stop the flow of cow-dung into the trunk drains.

(xi) Weld mesh/expanded metal grills are being fixed on the parapet walls of all the bridges/culverts over the drains to discourage local residents from throwing garbage into the drains. The existing boundary walls are being repaired and restored and new ones are being constructed to discourage people from throwing garbage into the drains.